

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

MARCH 1940

VOL. 85, No 3



SCRIPTURES ONLY—8,000 VOLUMES IN 819 LANGUAGES
The American Bible Society's Historical Collection of Printed Scriptures

TRANSLATION



The Chicago Bible Society's five hundred guests at the centennial dinner in the Gold Room of the Congress Hotel, January 26, 1940.

From left to right at the speakers' table are Dr. and Mrs. Orlando Ingvolstadt, Dr. Ernest Guthrie, Secretary Cropp, Mrs. McLaughlin, Secretary McLaughlin, Dr. I. L. Schweitzer, and Bishop Spreng.

Chicago Again Celebrates a "Century of Progress"

THE first hundred years of the Chicago Bible Society will become history during the year 1940. To herald that event, five hundred members and friends of the Society met for dinner in the impressive Gold Room of the Congress Hotel, Friday evening, January 26. With evident fellowship, a well-planned program, and a series of brief but pointed addresses, the leaders of the Chicago Bible Society faced not only the splendid achievements of their first century, but also the opportunities of the next hundred years.

Reverend J. L. McLaughlin, D.D., who has served the American Bible Society for thirty-seven years, and who has been for fifteen years the Secretary for both Societies, introduced Reverend I. L. Schweitzer, a member of the Chicago Society's board of managers. Dr. Schweitzer presided in the absence of Mr. A. R. Clark, president of the board.

The entire assembly rose to honor Dr. McLaughlin as he stood to present his report for

the year's work. Moving pictures of the distribution of the Scriptures in the Chicago area were shown and interpreted by Dr. McLaughlin with graphic vividness. Appropriate greetings were presented by Reverend Ernest Guthrie, D.D., of the Congregational and Christian Churches, and by Bishop S. P. Spreng, of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. A brief message was delivered on behalf of the American Bible Society by General Secretary Frederick W. Cropp.

A pageant,—"A Century of Service,"—prepared by the Buena Memorial Presbyterian Church, depicted the beginnings of the society's work when the population of Chicago was only 4,000, and brought the story down to date with its record of 530,897 volumes distributed in 1939 in a city of more than two million. The message of the pageant may be summarized in a single sentence from the pen of one of the society's historians, "Its golden

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BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution
of the Holy Scriptures

VOLUME 85

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NUMBER 3

One More Language Needed

THE annual announcement is made in these pages, of the new languages added last year to the list of those which now carry to people in their native tongues some portion of God's Word. The number is growing rapidly, eighteen languages being added to the figure announced a year ago, bringing the total to 1,039. Behind this amazing achievement lies the patient toil of men and women of apostolic spirit who have counted themselves as naught for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus their Lord. The story of their heroism and persistence is one of the truly great chapters in the record of the race.

To succeed, every translating missionary must be an expert in at least three languages: the one in which he was born and educated—the English presumably; the one into which he is translating the Scriptures, and the language of his heart with which his whole sacrificial life of service, far from home, is vocal.

From the beginning of the Christian movement, this third language, which may be mastered by anyone who has surrendered his life to Jesus Christ, has been the one supremely needed.

From a mathematical standpoint, the translation of the Scriptures has moved far on toward completion. Some significant part of God's Word is now available in 1,039 languages. No one knows how many tongues men speak (the French Academy lists 2,796), but it is a fact that most of the people of the world might

now hear the wonderful works of God in their own tongues. The whole Bible is now available in 182 languages, and in this number are virtually all the important tongues of men, including those spoken by the ruling races of Europe and the New World, the Chinese Kuoyü (Mandarin) spoken by over 300,000,000 people, the Arabic, Japanese, and the great languages of India. There is no race or nation now struggling for world mastery that does not possess the whole Bible. When one adds the languages in which there is a New Testament or some part thereof, it is estimated by missionary authorities that the Scriptures are within the reach of nine tenths of the people of the world.

To have brought their accomplishment to this point makes the achievement of the translating missionaries the miracle of the ages in the world of literature.

That, in the face of these facts, it may be seriously doubted if two fifths of the people of the world have ever even heard of God's Word, is a stinging indictment of the Christian church.

It is not expected of every professing Christian that, like the translating missionary, he speak three languages. Most of us in America are expert in only one. But, if men are to learn of Jesus Christ and surrender to his mastery of their lives, it can only come about because all of us who profess to belong to him will speak, beside our native tongue, that universal

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The Glory of Colportage

The Secretary of the Rocky Mountain District here reviews with the insight that only a veteran Bible distributor possesses, the victories of his work in 1939. His responsibility covers the states of Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Utah, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona, and Wyoming, which is more than one quarter of the area of continental United States, an area still largely unreached with the gospel

By Arthur F. Ragatz

THERE is a gripping fascination about the work of Bible distribution that lifts it above the ordinary task. With all its seeming sameness from day to day and from year to year, there is such a vital personal element involved in each transaction, that the work can never become monotonous. Superficially, there may be a similarity in these requests that come from every hamlet, town, and state; but like the unchanging colors of a kaleidoscope which are always cast in changing patterns, so each request, though asking for the same book, reflects the needs of a different personality, hope, and environment.

If We Only Knew

One often wonders what human interest stories underlie requests like the one from the widow who wrote, "I cannot bring up my children without a Bible"; or the one from a wife who said, "I am pinning my hopes on the Bible doing for my husband what nothing else has been able to do"; or what tender childhood memories may have been revived in the mind of the aged but thoroughly Americanized Swede who asked for a Swedish Bible, "that I may once more read it in the language in which my father read it to me as a boy in the old country."

What, if anything, was wrong in the home of the boy who saved his nickels to buy a Bible, because "I want to be the kind of man my Sunday-school teacher is"; or in the home of the girl who picked out a "nice" Bible in the hope that, "Perhaps, if it looks pretty, my mother will read it."

In many a request one can feel the heart throb of him who wrote it; while not infrequently the never-ending stream of letters flowing over the Secretary's desk will contain one in which "bread" that was "cast upon the waters" long years before is returned, as in the

case of the man who wrote, "When I was down and out and couldn't pay for a Bible, you gave me one. It changed my whole life, and now that I am happy and at work once more, I am sending you enough money to pay for the one I got, and enough more to pay for a few to give to others who need it as much as I did."

"150,000 Square Miles of Opportunity"

While the number of requests for grants received during the year is large, their total does not exceed what might normally be expected from such vast frontier areas whose needs are correspondingly great. Consider one typical state that has been aptly described by a noted director of religious education as "150,000 square miles of opportunity." Seventy-four percent of that state's entire population is unchurched, and sixty percent of its school-age children receive no religious instruction.

Reports like this answer the question, "How much longer will it take the demand for Bibles to reach its saturation point?" so often asked by people who are unacquainted with conditions in these western states. It is obvious that the demand for Bibles will continue until all of these people have been contacted and supplied. But, how will one proceed to evolve a feasible plan to contact half a million people in a single state, who are scattered over an area in which the population averages only three and a half persons to the square mile?

Denominational Cooperation

Great though the task may be, it is nevertheless encouraging to note the increasing number of denominational representatives in these fields who are striving to remedy this condition by carrying Scriptures with them as they travel over their prodigious fields of service. Then, too, as more people become acquainted with the

American Bible Society as a source of supply, the mail orders coming from isolated individuals and communities are showing a gradual increase. But, even so, there still remains, for the time being at least, a number of real if not insurmountable difficulties, which prevent this office from solving the most perplexing problem indigenous to the Rocky Mountain District.

One of these cooperating fieldmen writes, "So far this year I have found and supplied more than twenty homes that had no Bibles. My stock is nearly exhausted. I have only a few Testaments and Gospels left, so need another shipment of Bibles before starting on my next long trip."



Interrupted by the Bibleman—Arizona

Another missionary writes, "As soon as the snows melt so that I can travel, I want to take the gospel to hundreds of remote, unchurched people living in the mountains. On former visits I found them hungry for the Word of God. In most of the homes I visited, I found neither Bible nor Testament." From one of these visited miners has come this testimony:

"The Very Word of Life"

"Once I was wrapped up in the things of the world, and could not realize what I was missing by not knowing the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. But God has opened my eyes, and has revealed to me the Bible as the very Word of Life. I can not tell the joy that came to me as I pored over its sacred pages and fed on its truths."

"America's Untouched Mission Field"

Reports from the Utah Gospel Mission reveal that their workers, who travel in house cars, last year called on 43,000 people living in those vast

domains of sparsely populated desert and mountain areas which still abound in most of these western states. We can understand why this region has been called "America's untouched mission field," when we are told that these dauntless missionaries canvassed 5,000 square miles, in which nearly 40,000 people live, and found only nine small communities in which local Christian work is being carried on. In connection with their regular missionary work these men distributed 1,296 copies of Scripture. Were it not for their cooperation, the Bible Society would be unable to do any work whatsoever in the greater part of the territory they cover in their missionary travels.

"Never Been to No Church"

A twelve-year-old boy trudging along a mountain highway was overtaken by a missionary, who asked, "Can you tell me the way to heaven?" "Naw," came the reply; "don't know nuthin' about it. Never been to no church." Asked whether there was a Bible or a Testament in his home, he replied, "Naw, the old man ain't spendin' no money on such things like that." Then, after a moment, he added a bit wistfully. "But I would like to read about heaven some, though." What a privilege it must have been to present that boy with the book that "the old man" wouldn't buy!

The Bible! Why Not?

A fieldman reports, "I stopped at a filling station in the salt desert, fifty miles from the nearest human habitation. When the young man, only attendant at the station, told me how lonely he was, I offered him a number of excellent tracts. Imagine my surprise when he refused them with the curt remark that he had been taught to trust the teaching of only those who were competent to give spiritual instruction."

"I then offered him a Gospel of John, which he eagerly accepted, saying, 'Sure, I'll take that. That's the Bible, ain't it? Why don't you fellows offer a guy the Bible more, instead of what somebody thinks about the Bible?' As I resumed my journey, I couldn't help wondering why we don't."

A Bibleman changed his mind about camping on the mountainside when he saw a group of buildings down in the valley. It was a C.C.C. camp, and the invitation to be their guest was

most cordial. During the meal he requested the officer's permission to address the boys that evening. The privilege was graciously granted. "But," said the officer, "don't be disappointed if no more than a dozen turn out when I tell them that you're a Bible colporteur." At seven o'clock the mess gong sounded, and out of the 117 boys off duty, 111 swarmed into the "library" and gave close attention throughout the entire address. A number of new arrivals having no Testaments were supplied.

School Children in Bible Classes

Splendid interdenominational work has been done this year among school children in both urban and rural districts. Volunteer workers from the various churches teach the children, who are divided into age groups. So much interest has been shown in the lower grades, that in many high schools "Bible research clubs" have enrolled hundreds of students, who are permitted to give one lesson period a week to earnest study of the Word under competent leadership.

In addition to the organized class work referred to, there are many individuals who follow a less pretentious program in places where organized effort can not be carried on. The extent of some of these efforts can be seen from reports like this, "My husband and I have just completed a pre-Christmas Scripture memory campaign among thirty-five rural and city schools. As rewards for having memorized certain passages of Scripture we have given out more than 1,000 Gospels of St. Luke."

From the Tabernacle Community Church, Denver's pioneer institution for social service, comes a letter of thanks for a grant of Bibles and Testaments which had been given to families that could not afford to pay for them. After assuring the Society that they were eagerly received, are being faithfully read, and already have produced remarkable results, the pastor significantly adds, "I am convinced, after years of investigation in the problem of crime and delinquency, that the Bible taught and read is the best prevention."

A Disastrous Fire

One of the unusual requests received this year came from a Presbyterian church that was so completely destroyed by fire, that nothing was saved or salvaged. The pastor wrote, "Our

treasury is empty. We are in debt before thinking of rebuilding, but the work of the Lord and God's kingdom must move forward in these times. With two hundred in our Sunday school we could get along with one hundred Bibles. If you can't spare that many, will you be so kind and generous as to give us seventy-five? If you can't spare that many, will you please give us as many as you possibly can? I promise they will be used regularly every Sunday in our worship services, Sunday school, and young people's services."

The full grant was made, and from recent reports the congregation has not only "carried on," but is confidently looking forward to a new church they hope to be able to build soon.

"Open-air" Sunday School

From the widow of a long-time colporteur comes the interesting report of an "open-air" Sunday school that she is conducting in a street in an unchurched part of the city in which she lives. Penny Gospels are used in lieu of the regulation church school literature. It would be difficult to prophesy what may ultimately result from this unusual service. From a Sunday school she and her husband organized ten years ago in one of the oil fields, there have come four other schools, the establishment of several regular preaching points, and the building of one mission church.

An Appalling Situation

Out of southern Arizona, from what is rapidly becoming the "cotton belt" of the Southwest, come many urgent appeals for help for the 50,000 or more migrant workers. Many of these poverty-stricken laborers are even worse off than the much-publicized sharecroppers of the Deep South. Thousands of these people live in tin shacks, tents made out of material salvaged from city dumps, and in shelters made out of wood and corrugated packing-boxes.

From a "missionary to the migrants" to whom we give Scriptures for free distribution, comes this shocking story of one of these families. On a rainy night, word came that in one of these pitiful "poverty cesspools" twenty miles away, a dying woman was calling for him. With all his experience in such situations, he was not prepared for what he found upon entering their wet and leaking tent. In one corner, under various kinds of coverings, he found, not only the woman who was near death from tubercu-



A Maricopa Reservation mother

reading God's Word and had found the Saviour. Now he asked that I help place the children in an orphanage and get him into a sanitarium. And, as I proceeded to do this, I thanked God, that even though my spoken word had been spurned, the printed Word had accomplished that whereunto it had been sent."

What a Five-cent Testament Accomplished

A Christian landlady, while showing a traveling man to his room, made some remark indicating that she was a Christian. Instantly the man demanded, "Do you know anything about Jesus?" Being assured that she did, he took from his bag a well-worn Testament, which proved to be one of our five-cent editions, and thrusting it into her hands said, "If you know what this means, please tell me right now; for I must know. Some timid soul gave this book to me on a train a month ago. At first, I was amused, and, as I glanced through it, found it rather uninteresting; but once I began to read, it got hold of me. I can't get away from it. I haven't had a decent night's rest in two weeks. I'm all wrong with God, and must get this thing settled." Through the woman's wise counsel, it was settled—but, what if someone had not given a five-cent Testament to a traveling man on a train?

(Continued from page 42)

light has fallen on cottage and palace, tent and hospital, and the radiance of its Book has always lighted the way to the Better Country."

The report of the nominating committee was received by the members, and Reverend John Timothy Stone, D.D., president of Chicago Theological Seminary, was elected president of the board for the centennial year. Dr. Stone then spoke effectively upon the unity of Christian people in the Bible Societies, and the gift of confidence, stability, and vision vouchsafed by the Scriptures.

Rev. Orlando Ingvolstadt, a member of the board of managers and chairman of the Centennial Committee, delivered the closing address on the theme "Looking Forward." Before Bishop Spreng pronounced the benediction, Dr. McLaughlin led the gathering in a stirring service of consecration.

Another hundred years had begun for the Chicago Bible Society and the American Bible Society in Chicago.

losis, but also her husband who was desperately ill with the same disease; while between the two was their infant child. In the opposite corner, under a mass of rain-soaked covers he found a boy of ten and a girl of twelve.

The noise of the beating rain upon the tent made reading and praying very difficult. The woman gave eager attention, but her embittered and rebellious husband held the covers over his head, saying he wanted to have nothing to do with God. After the missionary had rendered all the help he could give that night, he gave the dying woman a Testament and promised to return the next day. The following is his report of what happened after his first visit.

"Early the next morning I arranged for the family to have medical and other much-needed care. In a few days the weary mother, happy in her newly found peace, was mercifully released from her suffering. When I returned a short time later to see what could be done for the remaining members of the family, I found that the father and his children had left for parts unknown.

"After nearly a year had passed, there came a call for me from another migrant camp. Imagine my surprise to find, when I arrived, the same man with his two older children. In his hand was the Testament I had given his wife before she died. Gone was his bitterness, and in its place a look of peace. He had been

Who Wants Bibles in China?

The answers to this question have come to the Bible House in recent letters from Secretary Carleton Lacy, and are gathered together in the paragraphs that follow

By Francis C. Stifler

“WHY are you taking so many Bibles to Chungking? Who wants them?” inquired the customs inspector, as the two truckloads of Scriptures were passing his bureau at Kwangsi last summer. The provincial secretary in charge of the shipment answered by producing his sheaf of advance orders. They were from students in government universities and from high officials; two aviators were waiting for Testaments; a superintendent of churches to Honan Province begged for \$1,000 worth; a Chinese pastor needed three hundred Bibles for an evangelistic campaign in his district. There were requests for Testaments to be given to students in training for rural service and to sick and wounded soldiers. Indeed, the orders for Bibles and Testaments have poured into the Shanghai Bible House in such volume, that the presses and binderies have been unable to keep up with the demand. At the end of October there were unfilled orders for 35,000 books.

Not only are the presses behind, but transportation from Shanghai to many parts of China is, under war conditions, attended with great and costly hindrances.

Record readers will recall the story, in the issue of October 1939, of how two tons of Bibles were shipped last summer to Chungking by truck from Haiphong, in French Indo-China, and how the trip of 1,100 miles was made in ten days without a mishap.

Secretary Lacy now writes of a second caravan of trucks to make this trip under much more exciting circumstances. The trucks were bombed just outside of the city of Nanning, of which we in America have heard so much since last November. Further along their route, at Kweiyang, the trucks were caught in a panic when another air raid warning came. The flight from the city resulted in the falling of a woman and a child under one of the trucks, and the breaking of their legs—which involved, of course, visits to the police station, court-



A North China colporteur never lacks an audience

house, and hospital. All told, this same trip, which had been made in June in ten days, took four weeks for the second caravan in September.

Of the results of the delivery of the second caravan Dr. Lacy writes, “We have been receiving letters from all parts of Kiangsi, Hunan, and Szechwan thanking us for the books, but the supply lasted only a few days. Mr. Lin, our agent in Chungking, telegraphed, ‘Not a Bible for our Christmas trade.’ Mr. Franck wrote from Chengtu the week after the truck arrived there that all the Bibles were sold, and only a few Testaments were left in his hands. Last night I was out to dinner, and my hostess told me that she had just received a letter from a friend in Szechwan saying, ‘For all of those truckloads of Scriptures which the Bible Society has brought out here, we are still unable to buy a Bible in this city.’”

The latest development in the attempts to solve the transportation problem Dr. Lacy epitomizes in the phrase “Bibles for ballast.” It came about as a result of the effort to send off a shipment of fifty cases of books to Ningpo. The larger boats which call at that port were ordered to carry only passengers, because there was so much delay in discharging the cargoes. Having found that it was not safe to make the

sea journey with so many passengers and no cargo, the offer was made to carry the fifty cases of Scriptures along with other cargo, on the chance of carrying the entire cargo ballast back and forth for two or three trips between Shanghai and Ningpo while the ship was waiting for its turn to unload at the freight dock.

Transportation under these and other curious and unprecedented circumstances is expensive. But the Lord is caring for this in equally remarkable ways. One day in early December came Mr. Li Jui into the Bible House office to hand Secretary Lacy a check for \$5,000 to be applied to the high cost of transporting Scriptures! He had contributed \$2,000 earlier, and in 1938 had given \$3,000, part of which was designated for distribution in Manchuria and part for circulating the Scriptures in Southwest

China. Dr. Lacy reports Mr. Li's last gift as the largest single donation ever made at the Bible House. It will be noted with genuine satisfaction that the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, at its February meeting, made Mr. Li an Honorary Life Member of the Society as a recognition of his continued generosity.

Who wants Bibles in China? These little glimpses from Secretary Lacy's recent correspondence indicate how widely it is appreciated among the high and the low and the rich and the poor. In the five years ending with 1938 the three great Bible Societies distributed in China 57,786,250 volumes of Scripture, and in spite of the tragic hindrances and difficulties of the present situation the demand was apparently never so great.

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Nothing to Give

By Dave A. Parker

“**L**IFE deals strangely with men and women. It gives to one and takes from another.”

God gives,—and God takes away. And there seems little that we can do about it. If life decides tomorrow to take from you your health, your home, your children, there isn't much you can do about it. If life decides to give you more blessings than you seem to deserve, there isn't much that you can do about that.

But there is one thing over which man can and does exercise his own control. We can not always take *from* life, but we can always give *to* life! It matters not what our station in life may be, there is always something we can give. But, often we do not see it, and it remains for those who really seem to have nothing to give, to point the way.

The W. S. Kincheloe Bible Class has thirty-five members, each incurable, many of them unable to walk at all. They live in a home provided for them by the state of Virginia, in cooperation with the city of Richmond and interested individuals. Each inmate of the home gets an annual gift of \$2.75.

Mr. T. J. Sowers organized the Kincheloe Bible Class at the home in 1935. He, like the

others, suffered from an incurable ailment. An active insurance man for many years, Mr. Sowers had given his life to service in human endeavor, and now that his activity was done, he could have retired from the field. But the desire to give something was too strong.

Mr. Sowers organized the Bible Class among the inmates of the home and called it the W. S. Kincheloe Bible Class in honor of a splendid Christian friend, who supplied the class with study material. And there, perhaps, others like this group would have ended their service, shut in by four walls as the class was. Their world was truly small. Just the members,—just the home,—just a few visitors. But, with these limitations, their spirits had grown beyond their cramped bodies. Their faces glowed when they caught the vision of a Japanese colporteur in far-off Japan carrying a Bible into the back country to bring hope and light into the lives of someone halfway across the world.

The W. S. Kincheloe Bible Class in session



They caught the vision of another American Bible Society worker carrying the Scriptures into darkest Africa, into Siam, into Brazil, into Central America, and China. They saw the vision, and they wanted to help. From within the four walls of the home they wanted to send forth the gospel to all the world.

Yet, they had no funds. They couldn't help. They had nothing to give. But there must be a way to give if one really wanted to give badly enough—and there was! The W. S. Kincheloe Bible Class now gives ten dollars a year to the American Bible Society for its work in Africa and China and Japan.

None have to give, unless they want to. But Mr. Sowers shows them the way to give something. One man in the class raised \$2.85 toward the ten-dollar total by placing a little box near

a drink stand in the home. Everyone from outside who came into the home to deliver groceries and bring supplies was asked to donate something to the Bible Class, which was to be turned over to the American Bible Society.

Other members of the class placed envelopes beside their beds. When friends came in, they were told of the objective of the class and requested to donate a nickel or a dime for the Bible Class fund. Still others wrote outside to their friends, asking for a donation for the work.

God gives,—and God takes away. We can not always take what we want from life; but if we want to give, we can. There is always a way that we can give something. Often it remains for those who have nothing to give, to point the way—by giving others an interest in a great work.

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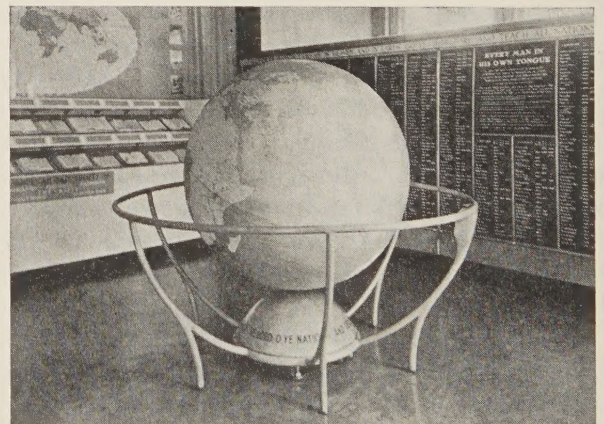
1939—1,039

EACH year the librarian at the Bible House gathers from many sources all the data available regarding the progress of work in the never-ending program of Scripture translation. In the last ten years 150 languages have come to light as having received some part of the Scriptures. Eighteen were added to the list since January 1, 1939, bringing the total at the end of 1939 to 1,039. A study of the accompanying table reveals that six of these are African languages, seven of them are spoken in widely separated spots on the continent of Asia, four are in Philippine dialects, and one, an Indian language spoken in British Colombia. As almost always, the beginnings in these strange tongues whose very names were never known to most of us before, are in most cases a single Gospel. It would be interesting to discover the factors in every case which have resulted in the appearance as the first book, of the Gospel of St. Mark in four of these languages, of St. Luke in five, of St. John in another five, with none choosing St. Matthew. It is encouraging to note that, beside the Gospel of St. John, the Books of Acts and Romans were completed in a Tibetan tongue; for Tibet is a land but slightly penetrated for Christ and the gospel.

In addition to the eighteen languages added to the list, we are glad to announce that the

Bible was completed, during 1939, in the Nandi language, spoken by 100,000 people living north-east of Lake Victoria in Kenya Colony, Africa—which brings the number of languages into which the entire Bible has been translated, to 182.

The new data also reveal that six languages hitherto reported as having something less now possess the whole New Testament. They are



Language display at the Bible house

the Latgalian language spoken by about 600,000 people in the southeast corner of Latvia; the Hwa Lisu, spoken in Yunnan, China and northern Burma; the Mori, spoken in central Celebes,

Netherlands East Indies; the Lualaba Ngwana, spoken along the banks of the Lualaba River from Stanleyville to Elizabethville in the Belgian Congo; the Hanga, spoken in the Kavirondo district of the Kenya Colony, East Africa; and the Mam, spoken by 200,000 people in southwestern Guatemala. The interesting story of the arrival on the field of the first samples of these Mam New Testaments was included in the February issue of the *Bible Society Record*.

With the completion of the Nandi Bible and the inclusion of the Kashmiri Bible, inadvertently omitted from the Society's list hitherto, the table of languages now possessing the Christian Scriptures is as follows:

The Bible	182
A whole Testament	223 more
At least a whole book	547 "
Selections only	87 "
	1,039

New Languages Added in 1939

Africa

Bua: Belgian Congo	St. Mark
Pere: "	St. John
Topoke: "	Selections
Lobi: West	Selections
Mumuye: Nigeria	St. Mark
Ji Kang Nuer: Sudan	St. John

Asia

Hkun: Burma	St. John
Kado: China: Yunnan	St. Luke
Purigskad: Tibet	St. John, Acts, Romans
Thai: Indo-China	Selections
Simalongun Batta: Sumatra ..	St. Luke
Kaili: Celebes	St. Luke
Kulawi: "	St. Luke

Philippines

Cuyono	St. John
Subano	St. Mark
Manobo	Selections
Zambali	St. Mark

North America

Gitksian: Canada	St. Luke
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Samathanam Learns to Read

FOR many years the American Bible Society has cooperated with the Madura Mission of the Congregational and Christian Churches, and the Arcot Mission of the Reformed Church in America, both located in South India. The funds provided are used to purchase Scriptures in the languages spoken in their areas. The latest Annual Report received shows almost 6,000 volumes distributed, mostly portions. Mrs. E. E. White of the Madura Mission writes of the work:

Most of our nearby Christians are poor villagers, who have had no chance to get any education. Illiteracy, among the women especially, is very high. Most of the women have to work in the fields, come home tired, to cook an inadequate meal for a family of several children. If they try to learn to read, it has to be at night after a hard day. The baby must be held in one arm, while the book is held in the other. I promised to each of these poor Christian village women a copy of the New Testament as soon as she would be able to read it. The other day, when visiting in one village, Samathanam ("Peace") told me that she could read. I handed her a copy of the New Testament, and asked her to read me a passage. When she read it to my satisfaction, I wrote her name in the book and told her to keep it. The look of joy on her face was worth far more than the price of the book. While the other women were reading their lessons, she sat there, entranced, turning over the pages, reading a passage here or there very softly to herself. She acted as if she had found a great treasure. Some of the other women seemed very proud

of her, and it is a proof to them that it can be done in spite of difficulties.

Until the others receive their copies, Samathanam will read to them, and she is also helping them with their letters. It is my hope to have a Bible in the hand of every Christian woman in the village who has good enough eyesight to learn her letters. It will bring a remarkable change, I am sure.

(Continued from page 43)

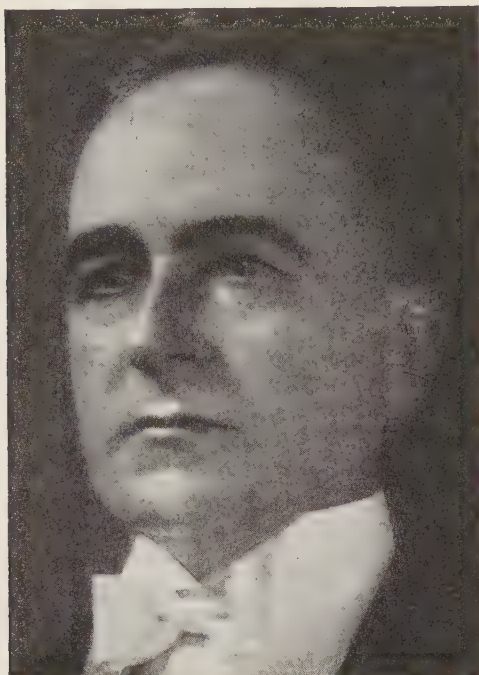
language that is the channel of power in every missionary. However lustily they may sing

In loftiest songs of sweetest praise
I would to everlasting days
Make all His glories known,

the overwhelming majority of the professing Christians of this country do not do anything to make available copies of the Scriptures to people into whose tongues they have been translated and published, but to only a few of whom the precious Book has ever been offered.

Not all of us can speak the compassionate language of the human heart which every human understands, by offering ourselves for missionary service. But every Christian who has a few cents to spare can add his bit to the voice that says to the waiting millions, "You have the Scriptures in your tongue. Here is a copy for you. Take it,—read it,—make it yours in that intimacy that brings you face to face with Him who is your Saviour and your Lord."

Bibles Presented to Brazil's President



President Getulio Vargas

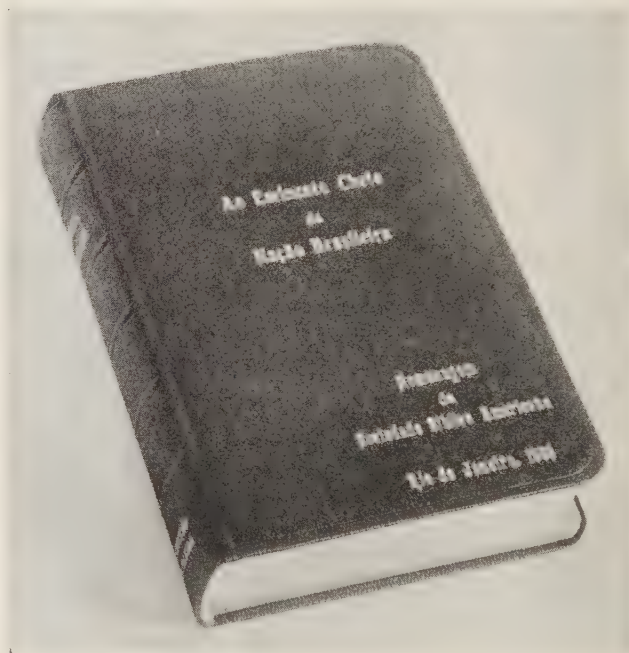
AMONG the official Christmas visits to the Rio "White House" was that of five evangelical Christians headed by Secretary Charles W. Turner, of the Brazil Agency of the American Bible Society. Their purpose was to make a presentation of two Bibles to President Getulio Vargas, who from the beginning of his administration in 1930 has indicated his genuine interest in the Society's work.

With Dr. Turner was Mr. J. L. Fernandez Braga, Jr., one of Rio's leading business men, prominent in church affairs; Rev. Mattathias Gomes dos Santos, a Presbyterian minister, representing Brazilian evangelicals; Dr. H. C. Tucker, Secretary Emeritus of the Society's Brazil Agency and on this occasion the representative of the American Colony in Rio; and Dr. Rodolpho Anders, representing the department of religious education of the Brazilian church.

Although President Vargas had expected to be present to receive the gifts in person, at the last moment he was prevented from coming. His secretary received the deputation in his place.

Dr. Turner and his committee conversed with the secretary for twenty minutes, each presenting a part of the information they desired President Vargas to have.

The Bible pictured here was the one first presented. It is the Brazilian version, and was supplied with a silk marker in the Brazil colors, green and yellow, and was contained in a beautifully finished Brazilwood box.



So as to indicate the breadth of the Society's work, the committee also presented a Bible in the Figueiredo Version, arranged as the other one was, except that the marker was in the American colors. The presentation was described as consisting of "a copy of the Holy Bible in two Portuguese versions."

The message left for the President stated in part:

The American Bible Society, a nonsectarian institution governed purely by altruistic motives, devoted exclusively to making the Holy Scriptures accessible to all classes of people throughout the world, thanks your Excellency for granting it this opportunity thus to come before you.

As the day approaches when the peoples of the earth will commemorate once again the birthday of Him for whom the prophets of Israel yearned and from whom the apostles received their dynamic in-

spiration,—Jesus Christ, the central figure of the Holy Writ,—the American Bible Society has deemed it highly fitting to ask for the liberty of presenting your Excellency with a copy of the Holy Bible in two Portuguese versions.

We remember that the recent weeks have marked the glorious jubilee of the Republic of Brazil. These same weeks are in our minds in a special sense also, because they register the second anniversary of the "Estado Novo," in which the best that democracy has to offer has been wisely adapted to the immediate needs of the land.

Desiring sincerely to associate ourselves with the memories of these stirring days, and because we are convinced that in the Biblical message lies the solution to the many problems that afflict mankind in our time, we respectfully present this Holy Bible to your Excellency, trusting that it will be accepted with

the assurance that the American Bible Society's plan and purpose is today what it always has been: to distribute the Holy Scriptures as widely as possible in Brazil, within the means of the poorest, and to cooperate with all the forces of righteousness in behalf of this great land which Almighty God in his providence has called you to govern.

Wide publicity was given to this presentation, which should be reflected in increased opportunities for the Society in the years to come. It is encouraging to note that Dr. Turner's report for 1939, just received, reveals that 258,669 volumes were distributed—a figure sixteen percent higher than any previous year's distribution by the Society in Brazil.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider
Distribution of the Holy
Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis
Carr Stifler, Editorial Secretary,
Bible House, Park Avenue and
57th Street, New York



VOL. 85 MARCH 1940 No. 3



Secretary
Hudgell

IN advance of the receipt of his report for 1939, Secretary E. W. G. Hudgell of the Bible Lands Agency, South, writes from Cairo under

date of January 10: "We have nothing exciting to chronicle of Egypt; but Palestine has returned practically to normal. There remains an aftermath, however, of ruined trade and helpless orphans. The circulation of the Holy Scriptures remains unabated, however, and

further supplies from London have just arrived for the Jerusalem depot."

Under the title "The Truth That Makes Men Free," the thirteen broadcasts given over the Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company in the summer and fall of 1939 by Editorial Secretary Stifler are now available in booklet form. The talks bear upon the place the Bible has held in achieving and maintaining freedom, and the urgent need that exists for the continued ministry of God's Word in the midst of a world where freedom is in jeopardy. Among the titles are "The Trail of Free Men," "Europe Discovers the Bible," "The Land of the Free," "China's Charter of Freedom," "Keeping Freedom Alive," "Custodians of Freedom," and "Freedom's Textbook." Copies of this attractive little booklet may be had for twenty-five cents, the cost of printing and mailing. Orders should be sent to *Bible Society Record*, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City.

Of especial interest to radio listeners in other lands is the announcement that the World Radio University will broadcast on the six Sundays beginning April 24, over short wave Stations WRUL and WRUW, Boston, Massachusetts, six of Secretary Stifler's transcribed broadcasts on the theme "The Truth That Makes Men Free." We are informed that these programs are heard all over the world by any standard receiving set having a short wave band. The hour will be 2:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The dial should be set to either 6.04 m.c. or 11.73 m.c.

As this number of the *Bible Society Record* goes to press, the "Read the Bible" seal campaign to which the February issue of the *Record* was devoted is well under way. The response so far has been widespread and hearty, with total purchases of seals from 3,208 friends of the Society amounting to \$6,193. Most of those who have responded are *Record* subscribers, always the faithful supporters of every project for the circulation of the Word.

Have you gotten your sheet as yet or can you use extra sheets of the seals? They will be sent to any address supplied. They serve two purposes: first, they encourage the reading of the Bible; and second, they provide funds for the wider circulation of the Scriptures among those who otherwise might never have them.

In response to many requests to know the name of the one who designed this year's "Read the Bible" seal, we are glad to state that the artist is Ursula Heinold, of 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, who serves many Christian organizations with her consecrated talents.

Rev. Wayne M. Daubenspeck, chaplain of the United States penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, writes to the Society at the close of 1939:

We want to express our sincere appreciation to you for the many courtesies you have extended to us during the past year. The many copies of the Bible and Testaments are being used by the men incarcerated here, and without doubt are of the greatest help in striking a better balance in life, pointing as they do to the finer and better things.

The Word of God is a continual help to all men, especially to those who are in trouble and who are looking toward a better understanding of the Heavenly Father.

This letter, in turn, may serve as an instance of many that come through the year from grateful recipients in jails, prisons, and other places of detention. The Society is never closer to the heart of its task than in its service to unfortunate people who are likely to be forgotten and whose need of God's Word is great.

Last July the *Bible Society Record* reported a list of 265

book titles—mostly English and American fiction, drama and poetry—taken from the Bible. A revised list of 420 titles may now be secured by sending ten cents in stamps to the *Bible Society Record*, Park Ave. and 57th Street, New York.

Pastor, Do You Know

THAT the American Bible Society is one of the principal missionary agencies of your church? Every year it cooperates with the denominational boards in their home and foreign enterprises. It aids translators, and publishes books in missionary tongues, which are made available at prices often far below cost. It furnishes Scriptures in the homeland in any language required for use by churches, Sunday schools, and missionaries. In times of disaster from flood, fire or tornado the American Bible Society stands ready to replace lost Bibles. It furnishes Testaments for the nation's enlisted men, and every year, through the chaplains, supplies Scriptures to the enrollees in the C.C.C. camps. Hospitals, orphanages, homes for the aged and incurables, are regularly visited by its agents; as also are jails, prisons, and penitentiaries. Wherever it is likely that a person might not have God's Word and is in especial need of it, the Society is particularly concerned to go.

Pastor, do your people know these facts? If they do not, do you know that there is no more fascinating missionary story you can give them, than the story of Bible distribution throughout the world? The nearest District office of the Bible Society stands ready to serve you. Wherever possible,

the Secretary will make your church a visit, or he will send you exhibit material, lantern lectures, literature.

Would you and your people like to know more about this basic Christian service? Here are two suggestions that will help: First, we shall be glad to send you, if you will write to the Society's headquarters, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, a copy of the last Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the Society, entitled "The Trail of the Colporteur," which you will find fascinating reading. Second, we will gladly send from the same address a sample copy of the *Bible Society Record*, the subscription price of which is one dollar a year. It is full of suggestive missionary information.

February Meeting of the Board

THE tenth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-fourth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York, on Thursday, February 1, 1940, at 3:30 p. m., President John T. Manson in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Dr. James R. Joy.

The minutes of the ninth stated meeting of the year were approved.

Rev. Dr. Herrick B. Young, having recently returned from a trip through South America, spoke briefly on the Society's work there and expressed appreciation of the invaluable assistance of the Bible Societies to the missionaries on the field.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

A grant of 4,000 Bibles, 3,000 New Testaments, and 4,500 portions to the American Sunday School Union on the sale and distribution plan was approved.

Mr. Li Jui was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Society (see page 49).

The meeting was adjourned.

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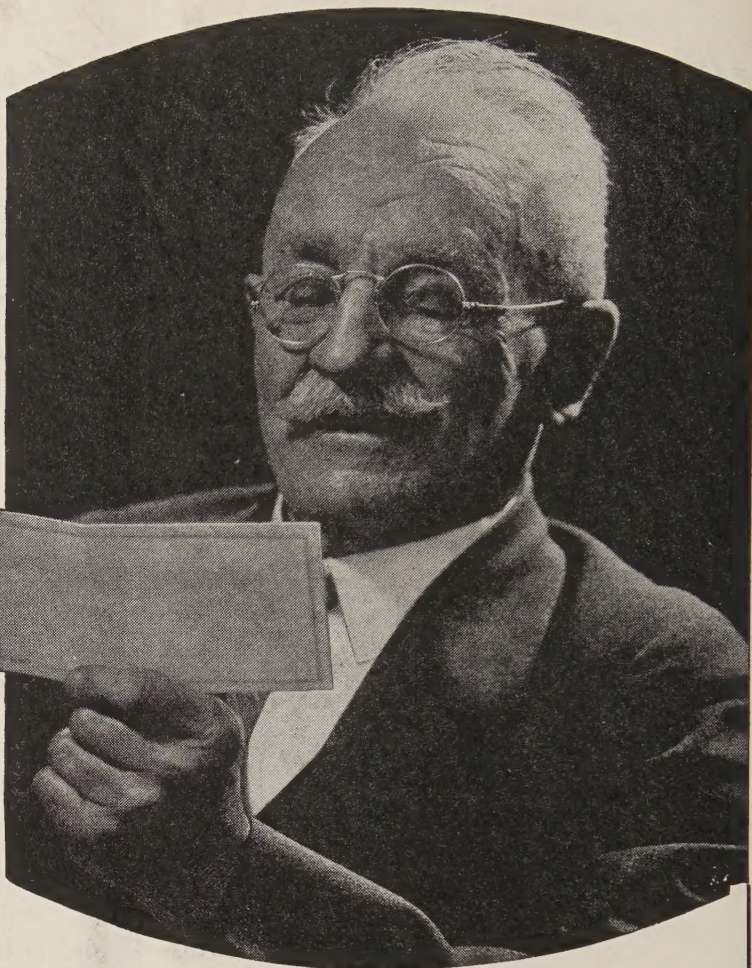
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